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REPORT ON A STUDY OF STUDENT INTERESTS IN FIVE AGRICULTURAL
OCCUPATIONS GROUPS, THREE AREAS OF NEW YORK STATE.

BY- NOAKES, HAROLD L.

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPT., ALBANY

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DURING 1964-65, QUESTIONNAIRES WERE GIVEN TO 6,706
STUDENTS IN GRADES 8-10 TO ASCERTAIN THEIR INTEREST IN
PREPARATION FOR AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS. STUDENTS FROM 13
SCHOOLS WHICH OFFERED AGRICULTURE COURSES, AND NINE WHICH DID
NOT, WERE ASKED TO INDICATE THEIR INTEREST IN AGRICULTURAL
ACTIVITIES AND THEIR CHOICE OF THE FOLLOWING--(1)
AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND MECHANICS, (2) AGRICULTURAL SALES
AND SERVICE, (3) FARM WORK (OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT), (4)
ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE, LANDSCAPING, AND FLORICULTURE, (5)
CONSERVATION, FORESTRY, AND CAMPSITE ACTIVITIES, OR (6) NO
INTEREST. AN AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATION GROUP WAS SELECTED AS
FIRST CHOICE BY 2,521 OF THE BOYS AND 1,658 OF THE GIRLS.
FIRST CHOICES OF BOYS WERE CONSERVATION, AGRICULTURAL
MECHANIZATION, FARM OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT, ORNAMENTAL
HORTICULTURE, AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS, IN THAT ORDER. FIRST
CHOICES OF GIRLS WERE ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE, CONSERVATION,
FARM OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT, AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS, AND
AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS, IN THAT ORDER. FROM THIS DATA,
ENROLLMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL COURSES WERE PROJECTED. (EM)

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
The State Education Department
Bureau of Agricultural Education
Albany, New York 12224

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FIVE AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS GROUPS

THREE AREAS OF NEW YORK STATE
1965

Dr. Harold L. Noakes, Associate
Bureau of Agricultural Education

During the 1964 - 1965 year, studies have been made in a number of school districts to determine the interest of students in preparing for agricultural occupations. These studies have been conducted under the direction of district, city and village superintendents of schools in cooperation with local school administrators. The Bureau of Agricultural Education has provided guidance in conducting such studies including the tabulation and analysis of data and making recommendations for program development.

The primary purpose of such studies has been to provide data which can be used as a basis of instituting and/or modifying agricultural programs to more effectively meet present and future needs.

Following is a report of a study conducted in three areas of New York State which include data from twenty-two schools. These areas include twelve schools in Oneida-Madison Counties, seven schools in Jefferson County and three schools in Columbia County.

Schools included in the study are as follows:

Oneida-Madison Counties

Bridgewater	New York Mills
Brookfield	Oriskany
Chadwicks	Sauquoit Valley
Clinton	Waterville
Leonardsville	Whitesboro
New Hartford	

Jefferson County

Clayton	Mannsville-Manor
General Brown	Hounsfield
Henderson	Watertown
Lyme	

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Columbia County

Chatham
Icabod Crane
New Lebanon

Agricultural programs now serve ten of the Oneida-Madison County schools studied, none of the Jefferson County schools studied and all of the Columbia County schools studied.

All students in grades 8, 9, and 10 were requested to complete a questionnaire indicating their interest in agricultural activities and choice of occupational families in agriculture. They were also provided an opportunity to indicate no interest in agricultural occupations.

The five occupational areas included Agricultural Machinery and Mechanics; Agricultural Sales and Service; Farm Work, Operation and Management; Ornamental Horticulture, Landscaping and Floriculture; and Conservation, Forestry and Campsite Activities.

A total of over 6700 boys and girls completed these questionnaires. Over 1600 indicated a first choice in one of the agricultural occupation groups.

These studies reveal that a significant number of students are interested in enrolling in agricultural courses provided that a variety of courses are available. It is well to note that agricultural courses are presently not available in nine schools studied. Over thirty-seven percent of the 6706 students studied indicated an interest in one or more occupational groups in the broad field of agriculture. Table 1 gives an overall picture of this interest.

TABLE 1

A Summary of Students Surveyed and the Number Interested in
One or More Agricultural Occupation Groups - Three Areas
of New York State - 1965

	<u>Students Surveyed</u>	<u>Students Indicating 1st Choice in Agriculture</u>			
		<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
12 Oneida-Madison County Schools	3611	887	508	1395	38.7
7 Jefferson County Schools	2265	573	269	842	37.2
3 Columbia County Schools	830	198	86	284	34.3
TOTAL	6706	2521	7658	863	37.6

error?

Among the first choices of occupational groups, boys consistently placed Conservation, first; Agricultural Mechanization, second; Farm Operation and Management, third; Ornamental Horticulture, fourth; and Agricultural Business, fifth.

Girls on the other hand, tended to rank Ornamental Horticulture, first; Conservation, second; Farm Operation and Management, third; Agricultural Business, fourth; and Agricultural Mechanics, fifth.

Figure 1, shows graphically the first choice of student interest in agricultural occupation groups.

In interpreting the data, factors were applied to provide a conservative estimate of the actual enrollment which could be anticipated in the various courses. These factors are based on previous experience and the best judgment of those interpreting the data.

Following is an example of how data is tabulated and enrollments in agricultural courses projected.

SAMPLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

1965

TABLE 2

First Choice of Students Interested in
Agricultural Occupations

	8		9		10		Total	
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
Agr. Mech.	9	-	5	1	6	-	20	1
Agr. Bus.	4	9	2	5	1	2	7	16
Farming	7	5	6	4	4	1	17	10
Orn. Hort.	5	15	2	9	2	6	9	30
Cons.	11	14	5	6	8	4	24	24
TOTAL	36	43	20	25	21	13	77	81

TABLE 3

Estimated Number of Students to be
Enrolled in Agricultural Courses

COURSE	1965-1966			1966-1967		
	B	G	Total	B	G	Total
Agr. 1	10	1	11	12	2	14
Agr. 2	10	1	11	10	1	11
Farm Prod. & Mgt.	5	-	5	9	1	10
Agr. Mech.	6	-	6	7	-	7
Orn. Hort.	1	2	3	2	5	7
Conservation	3	1	4	4	1	5
Agr. Bus.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	35	5	40	44	10	54

The above tables illustrate the need for agricultural programs serving an area larger than a single school district. In the above school there is sufficient potential enrollment to warrant the offering of Agriculture 1 and 2. Students interested in the other agricultural courses should be transported to a convenient center for such instruction.

It is anticipated that if such centers are established, that in schools where there is sufficient enrollment in agricultural courses and facilities available, that the individual schools would offer such instruction. Where enrollments are small, such as in specialized agricultural courses, students would be transported to a center for instruction.

This would bring about efficiencies in instruction and use of facilities. In addition, it would make possible the offering of specialized courses in Conservation, Ornamental Horticulture, Agricultural Mechanization, Agricultural Business, and Farm Production and Management.

It is recommended that an instructional program be established to serve the needs of out-of-school youth employed in farming and off-farm agricultural occupations. This instruction would be carried on throughout the year.

The training programs in agriculture are needed to meet the expanding demand for off-farm workers in the broad field of agriculture as well as to continue to train farm operators and managers for our farms.

FIGURE 1

FIRST CHOICE OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 8-10 INTERESTED IN AGRICULTURAL
OCCUPATION GROUPS IN 3 AREAS OF NEW YORK STATE

Oneida-Madison, Jefferson and Columbia Counties
1965

I. Agricultural Machinery and Mechanics

On.-Madison	B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
	G	**
Jefferson	B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
	G	**
Columbia	B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
	G	*

II. Agricultural Sales and Service

On.-Madison	B	XXXXXXX
	G	*****
Jefferson	B	XXX
	G	**
Columbia	B	XXX
	G	*

III. Farm Work, Operation or Management

On.-Madison	B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
	G	*****
Jefferson	B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
	G	*****
Columbia	B	XXXXXXX
	G	**

IV. Ornamental Horticulture, Landscaping and Floriculture

On.-Madison	B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
	G	*****
Jefferson	B	XXXXXXXXXX
	G	*****
Columbia	B	X
	G	*****

V. Conservation

On.-Madison	B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX - 111
	G	*****
Jefferson	B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
	G	*****
Columbia	B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
	G	****

X For Boys

* For Girls

Each X & * = 4 Students